

Our Founding Fathers knew this history well, and when they put together the Constitution of our country, in article II, they had that in their minds when they gave to the President the obligation—not the option—to faithfully execute the laws, all the laws of the United States, regardless of whether the President agrees with those laws or not.

I would say that this type of executive action is clearly not what the Founders had in mind when they drafted our Constitution. The main overriding goal of our forefathers was to prevent the executive from becoming too powerful, and they went to great efforts to ensure a strong system of checks and balances.

President Obama's executive action runs in the face of how our government was designed to operate. Let's also remember that earlier this year, President Obama said his policies—all of them—would be on the ballot in the mid-term elections. And the American people went to the polls and soundly rejected the President's policies. They made clear they were not supportive of more unilateral executive action. They wanted us to work together.

□ 1230

As a Congress, we warned the President not to go forward with this executive action.

Mr. Speaker, we need a solution to our Nation's immigration problem, but by using executive action, the President has made finding common ground far more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this House should rise above the actions of the President, and early next year, we should send the President real border security legislation, much like the border security legislation we passed in this House this past summer, yet the Senate wouldn't even take up.

This House should pass legislation to update and fix the worker visa program. This House should pass legislation to put in place E-Verify for all employers. This House should pass legislation to tighten internal security. Then, and only then, when we go through all of those pieces of legislation, should we even begin to discuss what we are going to do about the millions of people who are in this country illegally.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the more the President acts outside the bounds of his powers, the harder it becomes to actually achieve a solution. It leads me to wonder: Does President Obama actually want a long-term, lasting solution to immigration? His actions imply otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to rethink his approach to the immigration debate. I urge him to abandon this ill-conceived executive action and, instead, to come to the table and work with the Republicans and Democrats in the Congress and both Houses to find together the commonsense solutions that we need to find for these problems.

We are capable of doing that. That is how our Founders intended our government to operate, and anything other than that is a disservice to the American people.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 8, 2014 at 10:37 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2366
That the Senate passed H.R. 4812
That the Senate passed H.R. 5108
That the Senate passed H.R. 5462
That the Senate passed H.R. 5739
That the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 120
That the Senate passed H.J. Res. 105
That the Senate passed S. 1447
That the Senate passed S. 1683
That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 45

Appointments:
Katherine Tobin of Virginia, United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

Tom Girardi of California, Library of Congress Trust Fund Board.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Lieutenant Commander Robert Burns, Chaplain, United States Navy Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Plantation, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we praise You for You have blessed this land with a diverse multitude gathered from every nation, tribe, people, and language. You have bound us together with noble ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and yet we struggle to be one people, a unified Nation.

We pray for all the Members of this House, asking You to bless them with wisdom and discernment to lead our

people to reconciliation, to rebuild our Nation's confidence in justice, to restore our sense of equality. Free them from the divisive distractions of any lesser ideals that they may more powerfully serve the people as a House in one accord, making every effort to keep the unity of the people through the bond of peace.

Bless also our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines deployed overseas as they continue to bring peace to this troubled world. We pray in Your Holy Name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IMMIGRATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, President Obama significantly overstepped the bounds of his constitutionally granted executive authority when he took steps to grant amnesty to millions of immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

Prior to his unilateral actions, the President himself acknowledged repeatedly that this is not how our democracy functions, and the way to reform this Nation's broken immigration system is legislatively. As they say in North Carolina, the President has "gone to meddling." It is absolutely critical that we go on record against his unparalleled power grab, and Congress must do everything it can to stop his destructive actions.

As the granddaughter of Italian immigrants, I am thankful America has always opened her arms to people looking to build a better way for themselves and their families legally. However, breaking the law to enter the United States should not be rewarded. It is wrong to short-circuit the American immigration process in this manner when there are so many individuals who have waited years for the opportunity to come to this country the right way, the legal way.

RECOGNIZING FIU VP OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STEVE SAULS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Steve Sauls, who is retiring this month from Florida International University.

As vice president of government relations for Miami's public research university—and my alma mater—Steve has always aimed for a more beautiful day in south Florida.

Early in his career as a House staffer, Steve helped craft the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, opening the doors of opportunity to thousands of Cubans fleeing the oppression of Fidel Castro.

After moving to Miami, Steve was instrumental in creating the International Hurricane Research Center following Hurricane Andrew, helping advance research to make south Florida and the Nation more resilient to hurricanes.

Congratulations, Steve, on a fulfilling career and a well-deserved retirement, and please do enjoy your own fair share of beautiful days in south Florida.

RECOGNIZING PUEBLO EAST BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School football team and their coach, David Ramirez, who claimed their first Class 3A football title.

The Eagles and their opponents, the Rifle Bears, who had an impressive 12-win season, both showed great sportsmanship and determination in the final game, resulting in a 30-14 victory for the Eagles.

All year long Coach Ramirez and his staff instilled confidence in the Eagle team to work hard but most importantly believe in themselves and their quest for a championship. With grit and a long tradition of Eagle pride, a stellar season was realized in the culmination of a State football title. The city of Pueblo is extremely proud of this team. Each coach, player, and the staff of this Eagle football team will stand tall among the great athletic champions in Pueblo sports history.

Mr. Speaker, with Coach Ramirez's leadership and the team's hard work, Pueblo East captured their first football championship in school history while establishing a legacy of dedication and commitment to the game. There is no doubt that future Eagle teams will be inspired to do the same. We are very proud of them.

CORRECTION TO ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3979, PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, pursuant to House Resolution 770, the Clerk be instructed to make the correction I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the correction.

The Clerk read as follows:

In section 3050 of the House amendment, strike "2013" and insert "2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 770, I call up the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the amendment printed in part C of House Report 113-646 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5781

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Emergency projects.

Sec. 103. Temporary operational flexibility for first few storms of the water year.

Sec. 104. Progress report.

Sec. 105. Status of surface storage studies.

TITLE II—PROTECTION OF THIRD-PARTY WATER RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Offset for State Water Project.

Sec. 202. Area of origin protections.

Sec. 203. No redirected adverse impacts.

Sec. 204. Allocations For Sacramento Valley Contractors.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Effect on existing obligations.

Sec. 302. Termination of authorities.

TITLE I—CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT.—The term "Central Valley Project" has the meaning given the term in section 3403 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (106 Stat. 4707).

(2) DELTA.—The term "Delta" means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh, as defined in sections 12220 and 29101 of the California Public Resources Code.

(3) NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.—The term "negative impact on the long-term survival" means to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species.

(4) SALMONID BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term "salmonid biological opinion" means the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009.

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means—

(A) the Secretary of Commerce; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) SMELT BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term "smelt biological opinion" means the biological opinion on the Long-Term Operational Criteria and Plan for coordination of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on December 15, 2008.

(7) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of California.

(8) STATE WATER PROJECT.—The term "State Water Project" means the water project described by California Water Code section 11550 et seq. and operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the priority of individuals or entities, including those with Sacramento River Settlement Contracts, that have priority to the diversion and use of water over water rights held by the United States for operations of the Central Valley Project and over rights held by the State for operations of the State Water Project and the United States obligation to make a substitute supply of water available to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, the Secretaries shall direct the operations of the Central Valley Project and allow the State Water Project to provide the maximum quantity of water supplies possible to Central Valley Project agricultural, municipal and industrial, and refuge service and repayment contractors, and State Water Project contractors, by approving, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1) any project or operations to provide additional water supplies if there is any possible way whatsoever that the Secretaries can do so unless the project or operations constitute a highly inefficient way of providing additional water supplies; and

(2) any projects or operations as quickly as possible based on available information to address the emergency conditions.

(b) MANDATE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the applicable Secretary shall—

(1) authorize and implement actions to ensure that the Delta Cross Channel Gates remain open to the maximum extent practicable using findings from the United States Geological Survey on diurnal behavior of juvenile salmonids, timed to maximize the peak flood tide period and provide water supply and water quality benefits, consistent with operational criteria and monitoring set forth in the California State Water Resources Control Board's Order Approving a Temporary Urgency Change in License and Permit Terms in Response to Drought Conditions, effective January 31, 2014, or a successor order;

(2)(A) implement turbidity control strategies that allow for increased water deliveries for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project while avoiding a negative impact on the long-term survival delta smelt